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| OP_logo_H_rgb-copy-WEB72Part 1: Background Information | School of Information TechnologyETHICS COMMITTEE SUBMISSIONS |

Title: Agricultural Teaching Tool Interface Evaluation

Date (start): 1-10-09 Date (finish): 1-7-10

Staff responsible: A.P. Samuel Mann, Hamish Smith, Patricia Haden

Brief description: As part of their senior project, four Bachelor of Information Technology students, in collaboration with the University of Otago CSAFE group, are developing a digital teaching tool covering sustainable agricultural practices. The product is targeted to late secondary and early tertiary students. As part of the development, user-interface evaluations will be performed using subjects from the target demographic. These evaluations will use standard task-based observation protocols. No identifying information will be associated with the observational data.

###### Complete Part 2

### Part 3 : Pathway Categories

**CATEGORY B:**

* Staff research outside Cat. A but still with current ethical considerations
* Or student research that otherwise would be Cat. A

I have considered the ethical implications of this research and consider it to be Category B. I furthermore undertake to carry out action/s:

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to mitigate any risks.

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STAFF SIGNATURE DATE

**CATEGORY A:**

Staff undertaking research or practice that involves:

* Identifiable personal information;
* Taking / handling of any form of tissue / fluid sample from humans / cadavers;
* Any form of physical / psychological stress;
* Situations which might place safety of participants / researchers at risk;
* Administration / restriction of food, fluid or drug to a participant;
* Potential conflict between applicant’s activities as researcher, clinician or teacher and their interests as professional / private individuals (inc. students, clients, patients);
* Any form of deception.

**Head of School comment**:

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Cat B

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SIGNATURE DATE

Reviewed by SITE Ethics Com: ………………..…..

(Summary of activity to be sent to Otago Polytechnic’s Ethics Committee in December each year for review).

Submit to Otago Polytechnic’s Ethics Committee (on separate form).

Copy of both forms to Head of School

Cat A

This form is also available on http://site.tekotago.ac.nz

### Part 2: Details of ethical issues involved and actions taken

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| ISSUES AREA | **COMMENT** | **ACTION TAKEN** |
| Human / animal subjects | * Human subjects will be recruited from student populations at Otago Polytechnic and possibly, other institutions belonging to the CSAFE research consortium. * Subjects will not be paid for their participation. | Standard information sheets and voluntary participation waivers will be used (see attached) |
| Evidence that participants understand purpose of study and possible consequences to themselves or others of their participation (and availability of results) | * Participants will be provided with information describing the purpose of the study and intended use of the results. There are no anticipated adverse consequences to the participants. * Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and offer feedback at the end of the evaluation session. | As above |
| Potential threats to physical, emotional, cultural well-being  (particularly to participants, but also to researchers and others) | * There are no physical risks to the participant. * Participants are assured that the purpose of the study is to evaluate the software, not to evaluate the performance of the user. * Seeing animated farm animals become ill could potentially cause emotional distress to some participants. | The program will present an informative warning message to the user if an action is attempted that may cause harmful effects to livestock. |
| Voluntary participation without pressure (i.e. threat of adverse consequences, inducement) | * Participation is voluntary, and subjects are informed of this. * If subjects under 18 are tested, parental consent will be obtained. | Standard information sheets and voluntary participation waivers will be used (see attached) |
| Gathering of potentially sensitive information (i.e. personal information) | * No information will be stored which would allow identification of individual participants, or association of a participant with data. | User evaluation forms will not have any associated user identifiers beyond general demographic information. |
| Research protocols established (trained researcher, retention of information, security of information) | * Sessions will follow standard task-based interface evaluation protocols. Participants are given a list of tasks to accomplish (all normal uses of the program). Observation is made of participants’ choice of interface actions while completing the tasks. * Student researchers will be trained in correct procedure by the responsible staff member before sessions begin. Issues covered will include mechanics of the protocol, correct experimenter behaviour and debriefing technique. * All response sheets and experiment notes will be kept in secure storage for the duration of the project. |  |
| Potential intellectual property issues | * Due to the collaborative nature of the project, intellectual property issues may arise. This determination cannot be effectively made at this time. | Should supervisory staff determine that intellectual property protection is required, appropriate Otago Polytechnic procedures will be initiated. |
| Potential threats to Otago  Polytechnic Sustainability policy | * There are no threats to the Otago Polytechnic Sustainability policy. |  |